

## CERTAIN REMARKS ABOUT LABELS

By CALVIN GOODRICH

Among shells recently received from Mr. C. S. Shoup, of Tennessee, were specimens having a label that, in addition to the usual terse locality data, bears the information, "This is at the site of 'Maggie's Mill,' where the song, 'When You and I Were Young Maggie,' was written."

The occasions upon which anyone similarly has taken the trouble to record a casual observation or an incident or to register comment are so rare in my experience that I think I can remember all that ever have met my eyes. Labels long ago became conventionalized or ritualized into something as arid and stark as a military communique. It might seem to a person who for the first time saw a hundred or two of the things that when it came to label-writing the ink of the fountain pen was at the point of exhaustion or that the pencil used was a borrowed one the owner whereof was snatching away. Orthography at the moment is afflicted with cramp. The occasions aforementioned are:

With his types of *Melania brevispira*, Mr. J. G. Anthony made the notation, "New species det. when I was blind, by touch alone."

A label of Mr. W. W. Calkins reads as from the "Battle Field of Chickamauga, near which on the second day of the battle I was wounded."

Dr. James Lewis for once avoiding a decision on a perplexing specimen, put down, "What the hell, who can tell?"

These exceptions to a general tongue-tied rule have been found refreshing and interesting and to some degree stimulating, and I am bold enough to think that this would prove the case with others than myself. Small adventures occur on even short collecting expeditions. A person comes unexpectedly upon such bits of local pride as Mr. Shoup did. A farmer who wants to know what in blazes you are doing on his land may end by insisting that you come to dinner. Sometimes even the wealthy pre-emptors of government-owned beaches turn out equally as hospitable. Word of mouth accounts of the happenings go with the winds. Suppose now that Dr. Walker, home after a trip into the low grounds

south of Detroit, had pencilled a label, "Lost a boot this day in the mud of a slough," or that Dr. Ortmann had thus commemorated an event, "Obtained these shells by the grace of moonshiners who first mistook me for a revenue officer and were in mind to deal with me accordingly," or, again, that Mr. Clench had chronicled, "Here I broke a rib pulling Okkelberg out of the water"—these real and, in the telling, pleasurably exciting occurrences would not have been lost to that part of conchological history which in particular is of human interest.

Mr. E. B. Williamson collected fresh-water clams before he did dragon-flies, and so an incident of his career can be tugged into this argument. He went out from Pittsburgh to an upstream part of the Allegheny River in the period in which railroads promoted Sunday excursions. Careful of a new pair of trousers, he changed into overalls behind a bush. On the river, he recognized a species of dragon-fly which he knew to be represented in museums by only two specimens. All day he slopped up and down the shallows and bars. All day he swung his insect net like a gesticulating senator. He whooped elation over a catch and cursed the ones that got by him. He was in the state of mind that Tom McGinty would be on his Florida shore had Tom tripped over one of Captain Kidd's treasure chests. A toot of the locomotive whistle brought Williamson back to the train, loath to depart. Halfway home, he discovered that he'd left his trousers in their hiding place. Surely, his labels would have been enriched if he had gone beyond details of locality and the prescribed entomological memoranda and written, "This is the spot where I lost my pants."

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## FOUR NEW GASTROPODS FROM THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

By J. WYATT DURHAM

A Contribution from the Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, California

On the cruise of the *E. W. Scripps* to the Gulf of California, in the fall of 1940, a number of mollusca were collected in snapper samples and cores from various depths. These mollusks were